

# The Colorado Granger

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE COLORADO STATE GRANGE

WWW.COLORADOGRANGE.ORG

THE COLORADO GRANGER, SUMMER 2026

VOLUME 102, NUMBER 3

## Colorado State Grange Raffle

The Colorado State Grange is raffling two unique handcrafted items:

- A canning jar quilt featuring blocks created by Grange members and expertly assembled and quilted by Karen Baxter of Mt. Allison Grange.
- A handmade wooden Grange emblem planter designed to hold a 10-inch pot, crafted by Roger Ayers of Marvel Grange.

Raffle tickets are \$5 each or six for \$20. Most Grange secretaries, along with many state officers and directors, have tickets available. To purchase tickets, please contact one of them or reach out to the Colorado State Grange office. The proceeds will be used to fund Grange activities and programs.



Raffle Prize: Handmade wooden Grange emblem planter crafted by Roger Ayers of Marvel Grange.



Raffle Prize: Canning Jar Quilt assembled and quilted by Karen Baxter of Mt. Allison Grange.

## Capital Improvement Grants Awarded

To date, the Colorado State Grange has received three grant applications from Granges seeking funding for capital improvement projects.

- **Mt. Allison Grange** has been awarded nearly **\$13,000** to repair its foundation.
- **Golden Gate Grange** has been awarded **\$19,000** to repair its bathrooms, replace flooring in the bathrooms, and install new kitchen flooring.
- **Marvel Grange** has been awarded **\$20,000** to repair its roof and construct an ADA-accessible ramp on the north side of the building.

In addition, one other Grange has requested an application.

Some funding remains available; however, once the remaining funds have been distributed, no additional grant funds are expected to be available until 2029.

The program was announced in the last issue of the *Colorado Granger*. Granges interested in applying may request an application form and additional information through the State Grange office.

## Colorado State Grange Leadership And Scholarship Foundation

The Colorado State Grange Leadership and Scholarship Foundation have awarded 12 scholarships for the 2026/2027 school year.

The recipients are Trevor Phillips, \$2500; Ryan St. Aubin, \$2500; Gavin Daugharty, \$2500; Clarity Trujillo, \$1500; Emily Davis, \$1500; Gavin Gehring, \$1500; Isabella Gehring, \$1500; Kai Eberhart, \$1500; Kingston Stanton, \$1500; Maya Bachman, \$1500; Tyler Fortune, \$1500; William (Ella) Williams, \$1500.

The recipients receiving \$2500 are Grange members that are active in their Granges and reported activ-

ity on their application. The others are relatives of Grange members. The Scholarship board wanted to recognize active Grange members. The scholarships are funded partially through memorial donations. If you have a member that has passed, the Grange or members may consider a donation to the Leadership and Scholarship foundation in their memory.

If someone in your Grange or your Grange would like to become a member of the Foundation, they can donate \$500 to the Foundation to become a member.

## Outstanding Granger Award

Any initiated Colorado Grange member may be nominated for the Outstanding Granger Award.

This award is presented at the Final Banquet of the State Convention to the deserving person or persons.

- Nominations can be made by any Grange member.
- The nominations should be in booklet form about the nominee for the judges to use to make their decision. The booklet should contain:
  1. Letters of Recommendation
  2. Information about the person's Grange activities and

- achievements.
- 3. Articles
- 4. Pictures
- 5. Other supportive material (involvement with organizations other than Grange)

- Entries are due in the **State Grange office** by September 3. The State Master will appoint a committee to judge the entries. The winner is not announced until the banquet, and may be kept a surprise if the sponsor so wishes.
- An award is given to the winner, as well as a special name badge that will denote that the person received this special honor.

**153rd State Session Tentative Agenda And Meal Function Registration Form On Back Page**

## Colorado State Grange Convention October 1-3

The Colorado State Grange Convention is October 1-3, 2026, and will be held at the Lewis-Arriola Community Building near Cortez, CO; 21176 Road S, Cortez, CO 81321.

<http://lewisarriolacomunitycenter.com>

Lewis Arriola Community Center is a 6000 Square foot facility with ample parking. There is a 4000 square foot main event room with a stage and seating up to 250 people including 29 tables.

A meeting room that can accommodate up to 25 people. Sound system, Wi-Fi, podium, and a full kitchen.

In addition, outside facilities include a ball field, horseshoe pits, basketball hoops, sand volleyball, and a gazebo for seating up to 120 with 8 tables. Outside bathrooms available upon request.

There are two charcoal BBQs as well as a propane grill available upon request, a playground, and one quarter mile of walking paths.

## Upcoming Events

Call individual Granges for more information.

- July 9** Golden Gate Grange Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- July 9** Garden Home Grange Meeting, 7 p.m.
- July 11** Darden Pomona Picnic.
- July 11** Sunflower Grange Meeting
- July 11** Sunflower Grange – Bruce Hier and the Sideways 7 at BMan's BBQ from 6 to 9 p.m.
- July TBD** Sunflower Grange Community Potluck Picnic, sponsored by the Grange Picnic spot and partners needed.
- July 24** Marvel Grange Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- July 25** Heritage Day in Florissant and Lake George.
- July 26** Marvel Grange Ice Cream Social honoring Veterans 3 p.m.
- Aug. 1-6** Golden Gate Drop Off for Rummage Sale, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- August 6** Purple Heart Day Celebration at the Florissant Grange.
- August 7** Golden Gate Rummage Sale – from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, August 8 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- August 8** Florissant Grange Craft Classes.
- August 8** Sunflower Grange Meeting – Election of new officers.
- August 12** Enterprise Grange Meeting, 6 p.m.
- August 13** Golden Gate Grange Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- August 13** Garden Home Grange Meeting, 7 p.m.
- August 17** Florissant Grange Flea Market.
- August 22** Sunflower Grange Bruce Hier and the Sideways 7 at BMan's from 6 to 9 p.m. sponsored by BMan's.
- Sept. 3** Lecturers, Community Service, Membership, Outstanding Granger Nominations and Quilt of Valor nominations due in state office.
- Sept. 4** Marvel Grange Business Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
- Sept. 9** Enterprise Grange Meeting, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 10** Golden Gate Grange Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- Sept. 10** Garden Home Grange Meeting, 7 p.m.
- Sept. 12** Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting, 10 a. m. followed with Pomona Picnic.
- Sept. 12** Florissant Grange Craft Classes.
- Sept. 12** Sunflower Grange Tomato Tasting and Harvest Festival.
- Sept. 18** Marvel Grange Squash themed Potluck and program TBD.
- Sept. 19** Golden Gate Golden Gate Auxiliary Pig Roast, 5 p.m.
- Sept. 25** Meals Reservations for state session due in state office.
- Sept. 30-Oct. 3** State Grange Convention, Lewis Arriola Community Center near Cortez.
- Oct. 8** Golden Gate Grange Meeting, 2:30 p.m.
- Oct. 10** Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting, 10 a. m. followed with potluck.
- Oct. 16** Golden Gate Craft Fair, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Oct. 17** Enterprise Grange Annual Fall Chili Dinner, 5 p.m.
- Nov. 9-14** National Grange Convention in Broken Arrow, OK.
- Nov. 14** Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting 10 a.m. followed with Thanksgiving Dinner.
- Dec. 12** Pleasant Park Grange Regular Meeting, 10 a.m. followed with Christmas party.

### Weekly Happenings:

- Florissant – Business Meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month, 6 p.m.
- Florissant – Every Tuesday Grange Quilters, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m.
- Golden Gate Grange – AA – Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.
- Golden Gate Grange – Yoga – Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.
- Florissant – Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.
- Florissant – Grange Gift Shop is open every day except Thurs. and Sun.

# Master's Message

**Gary Wardle, State Master**

8606 Holman Circle, Arvada, CO 80005  
303-349-7390 • Email: cograngepresident@gmail.com



Brothers and Sisters, I hope all are enjoying the spring weather. As we get into July, we will be celebrating the 250th anniversary of the founding of America. Granges are encouraged to celebrate the anniversary with community celebration. Partnering with other organizations can be of benefit to the community.

I attended the National Grange Leadership conference in May. The National Grange is working on a program to rebrand the Grange. Some of the ideas that were shared are;

When asked what the Grange is: The Grange is where people come together to strengthen the community through service, learning, leadership, advocacy, community service, and connections to the land.

What is special about the Grange: The Grange turns local connections into real impact, bringing people together across generations and perspectives to serve, lead, and strengthen their communities.

These are just a few of the ideas that were shared. The National Grange is also developing a new logo. If you are planning to put a logo on your building, you should wait until the new logo is developed in the fall.

We are preparing for the 2026 state convention. Please prepare resolution for consideration at the convention. We will be in Cortez this year. This is a longer distance to come. I hope each Grange will consider assisting your delegate in attending.

Thanks to each of you for everything your Grange does to improve your community.

IN ESSENTIALS UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY,  
IN ALL THINGS CHARITY.

## — In Memoriam —

### Dominick Brenton

It is with heavy hearts that we share that Dominick Brenton passed away on June 18, 2026, after a courageous battle with serious health challenges. Though our community is grieving an immeasurable loss, we are also celebrating a life that gave so much to so many.

For years, Dominick was one of the heartbeats of our community. He dedicated countless hours to supporting local businesses, volunteering, connecting neighbors, and championing the people and organizations that make Wheat Ridge such a special place to call home. Whether through community events, service projects, business advocacy, or simply lending a helping hand, Dominick was always there for others. His impact on this community is impossible to measure, and the lives he touched are too numerous to count.

Dominick served as a delegate to the Colorado State Grange for Wheat Ridge Grange several years, he served the CSG as Membership Director beginning in 2018 for several years, Gate Keeper for two years, 2017-2019.

Over his final months, Dominick faced his illness with the same strength, grace, and warmth that defined his life. He was awaiting a liver transplant when he passed, surrounded by the love of his family and a community that adored him. Now, we come together to honor the legacy of this mountain of a man.

Dominick gave endlessly to those around him, and this is our chance to give back to the family he loved.

Anyone who knew Dominick

knows he would be the first person to show up for someone in need. Now it's our turn to show up for him and for those he held closest.

### Sharon Arnold

Sharon Arnold, former Colorado State Grange Secretary, passed away peacefully in her sleep on the afternoon of Monday, June 15. She was 85 years old.

At the time of her passing, Sharon was living in Las Vegas, Nevada, near her daughter, Sharlyn. Sharon and her husband, Robert "Butch" Arnold, were the proud parents of three daughters: Kara, Sharlyn, and Krista. Together, they welcomed many foreign exchange students into their home over the years, and many of those young people became cherished members of their extended family.

A Celebration of Life service will be planned at a later date.

Sharon devoted many years of service to the Grange. She served as Colorado State Grange Secretary from 1981 to 1986 and was an active member of Westminster Grange, where she held numerous leadership positions. She served as Master of Westminster Grange from 1998 to 2001, and under her leadership the Grange recognized her as Outstanding Granger in 2003.

In 1975-1976, Sharon and Butch were honored as the National Youth Couple. Sharon also served the Colorado State Grange in a variety of capacities throughout her lifetime, including several years as State Youth Director. Her dedication, leadership, and commitment to the Grange and its members will be remembered by all who knew her.

# Notes From The Secretary

**Cindy Greer, State Master**  
7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316  
719-748-5008  
Email: costategrange@gmail.com



**July 31 – Second quarter reports and payment due in state office.**

**September 3 – Nominations for outstanding Granger, Quilt of Valor award nominations due in state office, as well as Lecturers reports and Community Service reports due to their respective directors.**

**September 15 – Delegate committee selection forms due.**

**September 25 – Meal reservations for State Session due.**

**September 30-October 3 – State Session at the Lewis-Arriola Community Center near Cortez.**

**November 9-14 National Convention in Broken Arrow, OK.**

I will be away from the office July 1 through July 12. Why is it import-

ant to file your 990N postcard with the IRS? Basically, it's so that you don't lose your tax status of a 501c5 and so that your Grange does not have to pay taxes on the income that you have. If you like paying taxes then you don't need to mess with that simple five-minute job.

Same is true for Granges to file their Exempt property reports with the Colorado Department of Labor. If you fail to file (and it seems that at least nine Granges didn't) then you risk being placed on the property tax rolls and will receive a bill for property tax. It is not the State Grange's responsibility to file these reports, we are glad to help but we can't answer the questions that need

# Chaplain's Corner

**Shelly Griffin State Chaplain**  
P.O. Box 232, Lewis, CO 81327  
colorado.state.chaplain@gmail.com



We have a busy summer of celebrations ahead, with two special ones in particular.

As Americans, we are fortunate to live in a country where we have religious freedoms and many other freedoms and privileges that many other countries don't have. We have had that freedom for 250 years – what a milestone! Happy Birthday America! As Coloradans, we have an additional reason to celebrate. August 1, 1876, Colorado became the 38th state in the Union. That was 150 years ago, wow!

We would not have these reasons to celebrate without the sacrifices of our forefathers who intently believed God was blessing us with the freedoms sought after and gained. Their faith in God was incredible.

Speaking of faith, I was watching the last Broncos football game before the Super Bowl this past sea-

son. I witnessed that horrific season ending injury to Bo Nix in the final moments of the game. I was heartbroken for him. Bo is a man of deep faith, and he said something so incredible during the post-game interview that I have thought about it every day since and want to share it with you.

The reporter questioned Bo about the injury, how he was handling being knocked out of playing in the Super Bowl so well, and questioned why he wasn't angry. Bo replied with four words that were so profound the whole locker room fell silent. Bo paused for a moment and answered slowly and intently, "God doesn't say 'oops'." Read that again-God doesn't say "oops." I've had my own trials and tribulations, and I openly speak of how my deep faith in God has gotten me through them, but I never thought of it that

# Mandy Project

**Cindy Greer, Coordinator**  
970-588-3386 • Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

School has just ended, but the new school year will be here before long. As students return to class, many schools conduct routine health screenings, including hearing tests. These screenings sometimes identify children who need further evaluation, hearing aids, or other hearing-related services. Unfortunately, the cost of these services can place a significant financial burden on families.

The Mandy Project is available to help families facing these challenges and support children in getting the care they need. You can make

a difference by sharing information about the Mandy Project with any family you know whose child may need hearing-related assistance.

You can make a difference by making sure that the Mandy project continues to have funding. Donation can be sent to either the state Grange office with checks being made out to Colorado State Grange with a note that its for the Mandy project or you can send tax deductible donations to PICK for the Mandy project. Both entities work together and have accounts for the Mandy project.

## Granger Deadline And Guidelines

**October 5, 2026**, is the deadline for articles for the Fall 2026 edition of *The Colorado Granger*. You can send them to the State Grange Office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326 or email costategrange@gmail.com.

We would appreciate your following these guidelines when writing an article.

- Name of Grange
- Contact person (with phone number)
- Upcoming dates

- Brief summary of what has been happening at your Grange — DO NOT SEND MINUTES
- Community Service Projects
- In Memoriam (Grangers who have passed away)
- Thinking of You
- (Grangers who are sick and shut in — include address if they would enjoy cards)
- Hats Off (Grangers to be recognized)
- You're Invited (activities open to nonmembers and visiting Grangers)

Visit the  
**Colorado Grange website at**  
[www.coloradogranger.org](http://www.coloradogranger.org)

answered without your cooperation, because we don't ask you for financial reports or use of building reports.

The National Digest of Laws allows Granges to begin their election of officers as early as June so that your new officers can take their positions in September.

State session will be here soon. In the meantime everyone will be busy with county fair and other summer activities. We look forward to seeing many of you at the state convention near Cortez, CO. It's been a number of years since we have been in Cortez.

National Convention will be in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma. Colorado is a host with Oklahoma, Kansas, Texas, and Nebraska. Volunteers are needed in areas of hospitality, registration, transportation, etc. They are working on some great incentives for volunteers but we need help to get people there. Every day (Sun-Sat) we will have a variety of areas to volunteer, and each volunteer shift will be four hours.

way; now I do.

Think about it. It's right there in the bible, in Romans 8:28 NIV, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." It does not suggest that every bad experience is ultimately good, but that God remains actively involved to bring about good for His followers.

Bo knew the injury was bad, but his deep faith gave him strength. It is not easy to give it all to God, but the rewards are wonderful and is something worth practicing. It gets easier the more you do it, I promise.

Love one another, live each day to the fullest, and honor God the best way you can by sharing His word. Keep the faith and pray for rain.

### COLORADO STATE GRANGE MEMORIALS

Memorial donations to honor members and past members who have passed away should be made payable to CSG Leadership/Scholarship and mailed to the State Grange office, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326. Memorial donations are listed in the Book of Memories and included in the Memorial Service at the State convention.

### The Colorado Granger

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Chaplain.....Shelly Griffin  
Treasurer..... Sheryl Ayers  
Secretary.....Cindy Greer  
Gatekeeper..... Amy Peterson  
Ceres.....Yvonne Ludwig  
Pomona.....Carol Thompson  
Flora.....Terri Costeldia

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,  
Roger Ayers,  
Mike Lackey, Tom Campion

### Please notify the State Grange Office of any address change.

Because it is 2nd class mail, the Grange is charged 59¢ per address change the post office sends from the Granger mailings.

Email: costategrange@gmail.com

Call 719-748-5008 or mail the form below.

#### FOR THE COLORADO GRANGER MAILING LIST ADDRESS CHANGE FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRANGE # \_\_\_\_\_  
OLD ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
(IF CHANGE OR DROP) \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
PRESENT ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_  
(GIVE ROUTE AND BOX NUMBER)

Send to: Colorado State Grange  
7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326



## Lecturer

**BJ Bushman, State Lecturer**  
 303-550-7901  
 bushman.bj@gmail.com  
 8033 Sabino Lane  
 Castle Rock CO 80108

Time is quickly marching on and here we are halfway through the year! Depending on the area of the state where you are located, this past spring may have been a rough one! We've endured drought, late spring snowfalls, late spring freezes, high winds, and summer-like high temperatures weeks ahead of normal. So, if you are a farmer, rancher, or gardener, these challenges have been quite the force this season!

If policy is your forte, then you may have watched the challenges happening around our state during the last legislative session. Water, private property rights, and agriculture seem to always be on the hot-seat for imposing new laws or restrictions.

Regardless of what is happening in our own backyard, it is always good to find purpose in the Grange Mission: "Our mission is to strengthen individuals, families, and communities through service, education, non-partisan grassroots advocacy, and agricultural awareness." Serving is a great way to take the focus off ourselves and try to help fill a need. This mission statement is quite the declaration - \*Strengthening through Service, \*Educating, \*Nonpartisan Grassroots Advocacy, \*Agricultural Awareness. I hope that you were able to accomplish these focal points during Grange Month and beyond by capitalizing on opportunities in your communities.

As you impact your area with events and partnerships, please remember to document your efforts. Take photos, keep notes on how you have met goals that align with the Star Awards. It is truly impressive how our local Granges positively affect their surrounding communities. How rewarding to celebrate these efforts at our State Session during the Gala!

Besides the Star Award categories of Education/Information, Community, Cooperation, Entertainment, Membership/Growth, Family, and Media/Publicity for your Grange, please also encourage each other to submit entries for the Lecturer's Contests. It will be amazing to see the individual talents for the Hobby Corner (Holiday Items; Miscellaneous), Workbench (Wood Crafts; Leather, Metal, Recycled Crafts) and Art (Painting, Drawing), along with Photography (Windmills, Helping Hand, Fenceline, Miniature/Gigantic - contrast in size) and Creative Writing (1. Granny's Grange, 2. Grange Gaiety).

Certainly, the next few months leading up to our annual gathering will lend opportunity to many possibilities for positive impacts on our friends, neighbors, and potential future Grangers! Keep up the good work, improving on your program-

ming and outreach. Continue to keep the Grange Mission in mind and in all be Grange Strong!



## Agriculture Report

**David H. McCord, State Director**  
 David • 303-388-1259  
 Email: dmccord60@earthlink.net

INITIATIVE 3302 TO ADD RIGHT TO HUNT AND FISH TO THE COLORADO CONSTITUTION.

**News item:** "T. Roosevelt Conservation Alliance, a newly formed issue committee, launched Initiative 302, 'Constitutional Right to Hunt and Fish' (<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/Initiatives/titleBoard/filings/2025-2026/302Final.pdf>) in early April. The ballot measure would amend the state Constitution, establishing hunting, fishing, and harvesting of fish and wildlife as a constitutional right to every Coloradoan. It would apply to all species managed by the state except for endangered, federally prohibited, and non-game species."

The above website has full language, the first lines being:

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Colorado:

SECTION 1. In the constitution of the state of Colorado, add Section 13 to article XVIII as follows:

Section 13. Right to fish and hunt.  
 (1) THERE IS ESTABLISHED A RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE OF COLORADO TO HUNT, FISH, AND TAKE FISH AND WILDLIFE. THE RIGHT INCLUDES HUNTING, FISHING, AND HARVESTING FISH AND WILDLIFE BY THE USE OF TRADITIONAL METHODS. THE RIGHT APPLIES TO ALL SPECIES OF FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGED BY THE STATE EXCEPT NONGAME SPECIES, ENDANGERED SPECIES, OR ANY SPECIES THAT IS ILLEGAL TO HUNT UNDER FEDERAL LAW. —

I believe this is an effort to get ahead of the radical animal rights advocates active here and across the country that are attempting to ban hunting (and in Oregon, IP28 would also make killing anything, fish, fowl, or animal, wild or domestic, a felony). IP28 is expected to be on Oregon ballots this fall. Approval would destroy that state's hunting and fishing heritage and destroy its animal agriculture.

Here, the sponsor for 302, T. Roosevelt Conservation Alliance is well organized and they have engaged paid and volunteer signature gatherers. Similar right to hunt and fish



## Family Activities

**Idella Lewis and Karen Baxter, State Activities Co-Directors**  
 Idella Lewis, 303-274-9390  
 Email: idellamlewis@gmail.com  
 Karen Baxter, 14857 CR 240, Bayfield, CO 81122  
 970-259-1595



It is time to be thinking of what to enter in the many categories of events in the Family Activities Division at the State Grange Convention in Cortez.

Refer to the *Handbook* which came out in the January/February issue of the *Granger*. Be sure to follow all the rules!

suggest local and state governments may not be well prepared to handle the onslaught of new data centers.

Farm Action is advocating for additional safeguards to ensure data center expansion does not come at the expense of farmers, rural residents, and local communities. These include:

- A temporary moratorium on new hyperscale data center approvals until impact assessments and protections are established.
- An end to taxpayer-funded subsidies and incentives for data center development.
- Strong protections for farmland, water resources, and electricity consumers.
- Policies ensuring data center developers — not farmers and rural residents — pay the full cost of infrastructure expansion.
- Mandatory public reporting on electricity and water use.
- Greater local control and transparency over siting decisions, utility impacts, and land use changes.

I expect to prepare a resolution supporting these controls for our State Session in October.

NISP. Colorado State Grange has long supported the Northern Integrated Supply project (NISP) but endless legal challenges have slowed progress and construction of the two planned NISP reservoirs has not advanced. The reservoir

sites are near Mac's Place on Hwy 287 and Hwy 114 and the other is near Galeton. Fort Collins Utilities is exploring joining the NISP versus expanding the existing Halligan Reservoir that has been in planning over 30 years.

OFF TOPIC. UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 629 MEMORIAL. On November 1, 1955, Flight 629 departed from Stapleton Airport bound for Portland and Seattle with 39 passengers and five crew on board. Eleven minutes later the plane was blown up by a dynamite bomb at 7:03 p.m. and all on board were killed. The son of one of the passengers seeking revenge on his mother for his childhood and to obtain a large flight insurance policy placed a dynamite bomb in her luggage. The plane blew up eight miles east of Longmont above farmland and near the So. Platte River.

Today, local residents are working to create a memorial to honor the victims at a site adjacent to a future fire station in the crash vicinity. [www.Flight629memorial.org](http://www.Flight629memorial.org). I encourage Grangers and friends who may have personal experience with this tragedy to contact the memorial sponsors (or me). The sponsors have a program on the tragedy that would be of interest to Grange members. Donors are sought for the memorial. A recent memorial was established at the Stapleton control tower, now a restaurant.

### Quilt of Valor recipients' nominations

A Grange member who is a veteran or currently in the military can be nominated/suggested to receive a quilt of Valor at the Annual State Grange Convention. This nomination must not have already received a quilt of valor. It is highly recommended that the member be able to attend the State Grange convention annual banquet to receive the quilt. The State Grange will provide the member and one guest with tickets to the banquet. The following information is needed for the Quilts of Valor. The nomination is to be received by the Colorado State Grange office by September 3.

#### Please Print or type

Name of individual \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information:

Grange name and number \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Branch of military member served in – Circle all applicable:

Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Airforce, Space Force

Specific Years member served: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank at the end of service \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Service \_\_\_\_\_

Other information available about the member:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please send nomination to the Colorado State Grange, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO. 81326



## P.I.C.K.

**People Improving Communities And Kids**

**Cindy Greer, Secretary/Treasurer**  
 7629 CR 100, Hesperus, CO 81316  
 970-588-3386 • Fax 970-588-3871  
 Email: hcrdgreer@frontier.net

**Thursday, October 1, 4 p.m. Annual meeting – During State Session.**

Congratulations to Roger Ayers for entering one of the PICK contests to celebrate the 250th US Anniversary. Roger received \$25. He created a beautiful wood wall hanging. (See Picture).

There is still time for a Grange to plan a **community 250th celebration**. PICK will grant subordinate or Pomona Granges that present a program/celebration and report to PICK in 2026 up to \$250. Preference will be given to those Granges who match the potential grant. A detailed plan must be submitted, along with a proposed budget/expenses for the project.





## Membership

Elizabeth Hiner, State Director  
970-403-4592  
elizabeth.natlgrange@gmail.com

I have come to the realization that in today's digital world even the older generations are moving away from personal interactions, even as they lament the old ways. Due to busy lives and easier access through social media, it seems easier to stay home and not participate in extracurricular activities such as the Grange. This makes it hard to increase membership to the Grange and to have enough active members to host meetings and functions. To those of you that are the glue holding your Grange together, thank you. You are the ones that are keeping the Grange alive. I appreciate each of you.

Below are the third and fourth parts of the series on membership from Amanda Brozana, the National Membership Director.

### Carry The Message.

*Taken in part from a publication by Amanda Brozana*

When a member pays dues, they have "bought into" everything offered – from access and influence through voice and vote at meetings to entry rights for contests, to the benefits offered through the various divisions of the Grange. Yet, we often find members uninformed, in part because of intentional gatekeeping of information. By failing to pass on information, you are making a choice for other members. Even if something isn't of interest to you, it is still important that all members have access to the information and opportunities they have paid for.

While the level of their engagement is up to each individual member, **sharing details** about upcoming events, camps, and contests and scholarship opportunities, as well as many other aspects that make Grange great, is something each of us should do with prospective, new, and even seasoned members. It was contests, camps, and other events and opportunities that "set the hook" for many of our legacy families and members with deep Grange roots.

Don't just share information just at meetings. **Send a message** to your entire membership. **Encourage** each to subscribe to State and National physical and digital publications, attend virtual and in-person Grange events at various levels, and interact with the Grange on their social me-

dia platforms. Make sure to add the fraternal touch. Take time to make a personal connection with members, especially those you don't often see at meetings or events, to inform them of things that may be of interest to them and build a better bond between them and the Grange.

### Have Fun

We cannot expect people to willingly pay dues and give up their time if they aren't getting anything they value in return, and we all value fun. Dances, nights out at local Little League games, nature walks, orchard tours – pick something and provide your members with the opportunity to come together beyond your meetings and outside of your Grange Hall to enjoy each other's company and the world around them. Remember, though, what is fun to one generation might not be to another. Get people of various ages and backgrounds involved in planning one or more events that will engage all members and provide them with something to reminisce about later in their Grange journey.

Don't forget, while a certain level of decorum is necessary to conduct your business, your meetings can also be enjoyable. Some ideas might include encouraging your Lecturer to have a short but relevant activity or game as part of their program, have themed meetings like funky shoes or silly sweaters, invite grandkids and have a talent show during your potluck, ask a different officer before each meeting to bring a clean joke to tell during "Good of the Order." Just make sure to be respectful of the time of your members.

The last section for this will follow in the next issue. Hope to see you at the convention.

*REMINDER: The Convention is coming up the October 1-3 and will be held at the Lewis-Arriola Community Building near Cortez, CO. 21176 Road S, Cortez, CO 81321.*

*Also, please get your membership information to me by September 3rd. I will need your membership counts, and any brochures or other membership media that you would like to send. Also please send me any publicity items that you wish to submit, example: fliers, brochures, news articles, etcetera. Thank you.*

## Real Estate Management

Mike Lackey, State Director  
303-521-8773  
Email: thelackeyteam@gmail.com



### Real Estate Trends In Colorado: April to June 2026

As we move through the second quarter of 2026, the real estate landscape in Colorado continues to evolve in response to changing market dynamics, economic trends, and demographic shifts. This article explores the significant topics in the Colorado real estate market from April to June 2026.

#### 1. Market Resilience Amid Economic Fluctuations

In April 2026, Colorado's real estate market showcased impressive resilience despite economic fluctuations caused by national inflation trends and interest rate adjustments. The Federal Reserve's decision to maintain lower interest rates provided ongoing access to affordable financing options, prompting first-time homebuyers to re-enter the market. However, with inflation showing signs of stabilization, buyers were more cautious, leading to a balanced, albeit competitive, market.

#### 2. Urban vs. Suburban Shift Continues

The trend of urban to suburban migration that began during the pandemic continues into 2026. Many Coloradans are seeking larger living spaces and more affordable housing options outside major metropolitan areas like Denver and Boulder. Areas such as Fort Collins, Colorado Springs, and even the quieter communities in the western slope have seen increased interest in single-family homes and townhomes, which has driven up property values in these regions.

#### 3. Sustainable Living and Green Properties

With an increasing focus on sustainability, many buyers are prioritizing energy-efficient homes and properties that offer eco-friendly features. Throughout April and June, there has been a notable rise in the market for green homes, particularly in eco-conscious cities such as Boulder and Aspen. Real estate developers are responding to this trend by incorporating renewable energy sources, energy-efficient appliances, and sustainable building materials into their projects, attracting environmentally aware buyers.

#### 4. Adjustments in Luxury Real Estate

The luxury real estate sector in Colorado has seen fluctuations in

both demand and pricing. High-end properties, particularly in popular ski towns such as Vail and Breckenridge, have remained in demand, but buyers are becoming more discerning. In June 2026, a notable trend emerged: buyers are increasingly seeking properties that offer unique experiences, like proximity to outdoor activities, sustainable features, and high-quality finishes. This trend signals a departure from merely status-driven purchases, with affluent buyers seeking lifestyles aligned with personal values.

#### 5. Investment in Rental Properties

The rental market in Colorado has remained strong, driven by a growing population and the influx of young professionals attracted to the state's thriving job market. In April, medium and long-term rental options gained popularity as remote work realities continued to influence living choices. Investors are actively looking at multi-family developments and single-family homes as viable rental

sources, emphasizing the importance of strategic location and amenities that appeal to tenants.

#### 6. Regulatory Developments and Housing Affordability

Housing affordability remains a hot topic in June 2026, as lawmakers and local governments search for solutions to address the housing crisis affecting many Colorado cities. Heightened discussions surrounding zoning changes, affordable housing mandates, and impact fees marked the quarter. Several municipalities began to implement new policies aiming to increase the availability of affordable housing, encouraging mixed-use developments and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) to offer diverse living options.

#### Conclusion

As the Colorado real estate market progresses through 2026, it reflects a dynamic interplay between economic factors, shifting buyer priorities, and emerging sustainability concerns. This period showcases a multifaceted landscape where traditional market strategies must adapt to changing consumer preferences and regulatory environments. Stakeholders, including investors, agents, and policymakers, will continue to navigate these challenges in pursuit of sustainable growth and a more inclusive housing market in Colorado.

## Legislative Activity

Mike Lackey, State Director  
303-521-8773 • Email: thelackeyteam@gmail.com

### Colorado Legislative Activity: Key Developments from April to June 2026 Introduction

As the Colorado General Assembly entered the second half of the 2026 legislative session, a flurry of activity marked the period from April 1 to June 30. The session saw significant developments in various areas, including education, healthcare, environmental policy, and social justice. This article reviews some of the most noteworthy pieces of legislation, committee actions, and political dynamics that shaped the state's legislative landscape during this quarter.

#### Education Reforms

One of the most ambitious education reform bills of the session, known as the "Future of Education Act," was passed in late April. This legislation aimed to allocate additional funding to public schools, enhance teacher pay, and expand mental health resources for students. Proponents of the bill emphasized the need to improve educational outcomes after the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bill received bipartisan support, reflecting a growing consensus on the importance of investing in education.

In contrast, a proposed measure to review and potentially revise standardized testing in public schools faced significant opposition. Critics argued that the current system is outdated and does not accurately measure student performance. However, the bill was ultimately shelved after a contentious debate, highlighting the challenges of educational policy reform.

#### Healthcare Access And Affordability

In the realm of healthcare, lawmakers addressed the ongoing concerns surrounding access and affordability. Following numerous public hearings and community forums, legislators introduced the "Affordable Healthcare Access Act" in mid-April. The bill aimed to lower prescription drug prices, expand Medicaid coverage, and support mental health services.

Despite initial enthusiasm, the legislation faced opposition from certain lobbying groups. During a heated debate in late May, lawmakers discussed the implications of the bill for state budgets and fiscal sustainability. After several amendments and compromises, the final version of the bill passed in June, signaling a commitment to improving healthcare access for Colorado residents.

#### Environmental Initiatives

Environmental sustainability re-

mained a priority, with several bills aimed at reducing carbon emissions and promoting renewable energy. The "Clean Energy Future Bill" garnered attention for its ambitious goal of achieving 100% renewable energy by 2030. Advocates highlighted the urgency of addressing climate change and transitioning away from fossil fuels.

However, the bill also sparked intense debate among various stakeholders, including energy companies and environmental groups. In June, after extensive negotiations, a compromise was reached that pushed back the original deadline to 2035, thus allowing for a more gradual transition. Though not a complete victory for environmental activists, the final bill was seen as a significant step forward in the state's climate agenda.

#### Social Justice And Equity

Social justice issues also took center stage in Colorado's legislative session. A comprehensive criminal justice reform bill, known as the "Fair Justice Act," was passed in May. This legislation aimed to address racial disparities within the criminal justice system by implementing measures such as bias training for law enforcement, expanding diversion programs, and revising sentencing guidelines for non-violent offenses.

Additionally, advocates for housing justice celebrated the passage of the "Affordable Housing for All Act," which sought to increase funding for affordable housing projects and provide protections for renters. The bill was particularly timely, given the state's ongoing housing crisis, and reflected a growing recognition of the need for equitable housing solutions.

#### Conclusion

As Colorado's legislative session drew to a close in June 2026, a mix of triumphs and challenges characterized the state's lawmaking process. The passage of significant education reforms, healthcare initiatives, environmental policies, and social justice measures highlighted the priorities of Colorado's elected officials. However, the debates and negotiations that unfolded also underscored the complexities inherent in governance.

Looking ahead, legislators and constituents alike will be tasked with monitoring the implementation of these laws and addressing the ongoing challenges facing the state. As Colorado continues to evolve, the decisions made during this quarter will undoubtedly shape the future of the state for years to come.

## Colorado Granger OPTIONS form

How would you prefer to receive the Colorado Granger? Paper, Email or not at all?

Please complete to form below and either mail it or email it to the Colorado State Grange *only if you have not responded before or if you would like to make a change.*

\_\_\_\_\_ I(We) prefer to receive an **emailed** copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I(We) prefer to receive a **paper** copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ I(We) do not want to receive Colorado Granger.

Your personal information (we want to be sure that we have your correct information)

Grange \_\_\_\_\_ # \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form to Colorado State Grange, 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO. 81326 or email the information to [costategrange@gmail.com](mailto:costategrange@gmail.com).

**Progressive**  
Arapahoe, Denver, Douglas & Elbert Counties

**Sunflower**

Contact Cherry Ellis, 303-581-7672, [cherryellis5@yahoo.com](mailto:cherryellis5@yahoo.com), P.O. Box 221, Sedalia CO 80135, for further information. Diana Bates, [dianahornerbates@gmail.com](mailto:dianahornerbates@gmail.com).

Grange Meetings and Potlucks — Places and dates to be determined. Everyone welcome!

Local History Book Club — 3rd Thursday, 2 p.m. at BMan's BBQ in Sedalia, Kay and Fred LaPerriere.

Farmers Markets with Moms Club in July, and August — location to be determined.

June 27 — Farmers Market at BMan's BBQ — eggs, homegrown produce, crafts.

July 11 — Grange Meeting.

July 11 — Bruce Hier and the Sideways 7 at BMan's BBQ from 6 to 9 p.m.

July (TBD) — Community Potluck Picnic, sponsored by the Grange. Picnic spot and partners needed.

August 8 — Grange Meeting — Election of new officers.

August 22 — Bruce Hier and the Sideways 7 at BMan's from 6 to 9 p.m. sponsored by BMan's and Sunflower Grange.

September 12 — Sunflower Tomato Tasting and Harvest Festival. Contests, music and food from the gardens.

This busy warm spring, Sunflower's lecturer, Diana Bates, invited local businesses to the Small Business Get-Together at April's Grange meeting. About 25 local business owners described their businesses, ate delicious appetizers and socialized. We all learned about Zia Mountain Jewelry's in-house silversmith and Native American jewelry; Zia's owner Jessica Harris won the Best Appetizer prize for Caprese skewers. Carol Massie and Joe Givens, Magicians, have spent the past year repairing and updating the former Gabriel's Restaurant into Magic Manor, home to magic shows, kids' workshops,

**Garden Home**

Contact Renee Hackett, 303-565-9494, [rhackett@hotmail.com](mailto:rhackett@hotmail.com), for further information.

Monthly Meeting Dates — 7 p.m., July 9th, Aug. 13th, and Sept. 10th.

We had our 3rd Annual Garden Home Grange Spaghetti Dinner at 1120 S. Irving St., Denver, CO 80219.

Delicious Pot Luck of green salad, Jello salad, green beans, veggie tray, fruit, rolls, chocolate sheet cake with Rob Northway providing his mom's homemade Spaghetti for all to enjoy!

Played Pokeno with M&M's, and superb Grand Prizes for all those winners . . . Special Thank You to the Lands. Great table decorations with flowers to go home.

Collected non-perishables for donations. Thank you everyone for attending and making our evening a great one.

Good Food, Fun and Fellowship enjoyed by all!

Contact Rob Northway @ 303-935-2833 to enjoy the festivities next year.

We have been taking some time and fixing up our Grange and love eating out before each meeting, enjoying such wonderful friends.

Hats off: We will be celebrating a very special, lifelong member in September, Gail Land, who will be turning 100 years old!!!! What a blessing she is to us all.

Renee Hackett



Diana Bates with birdhouses and plants at the May 9th sale.

music, and events <https://theatreof-dreams.wellattended.com/>. We can all use a little magic in our lives!

Jaime Lessar is the new Farmers Insurance agent in town, eager to join in community activities. Dennis Gutenberger and Peggy Bodie of Western Log Creations (<https://www.westernlogcreations.com/>) display some of their log furniture and art work along with other artisans and artists at Judy Smith's (Dave and Ed, too) Whistle Stop Quilts, Crafts near the train tracks (<https://www.facebook.com/EDW.COLORADO/>).

Potter Patty McDonough and artist/art teacher Sarah Phippen talked about their art and Cherri LaMarr's Magpie Arts, a welcoming multi-use space for workshops and classes to develop everyone's artistic skills and nurture creativity. Curtis and Michele Kloempken talked about their well-established mom and pop business, Mimi's Carpet Care (<https://www.mimiscarpetcare.com/>).

They are examples of very hard-working small business owners who do it all themselves. We are all grateful for Sedalia's small businesses that have always sustained the town. More socializing and problem-solving at future small business gatherings, maybe on Sundays or evenings, since Saturdays are work days for business owners.

Instead of the usual annual Plant Sale, this year's event blossomed into "Sunflower Grange & Moms'



Sideways 7 performing at BMan's in Sedalia.



The crowd enjoying the show at BMan's on June 6.



Leo and Rayne at Leo's Lemonade, a popular market spot.

Club Plants, Crafts, and Children's Market" on May 9th outdoors at BMan's BBQ. Diana Bates, lecturer and Bluebird House Builder wrote "The weather was perfect. Customers could browse the sale offerings, make their purchases, and treat themselves to a BBQ lunch." Thanks to Rachelle Elder and Sandi Hier for cashiering, and to Diana, Toni Romaine, and Cherry Ellis who grew a wide variety of tomatoes (many from saved seed), peppers, squash, cucumbers, flowers, and herbs. Diana's Western Bluebird nesting boxes were very popular.

For Danelle Klaasen, president of Moms Club, "...the market had a cozy small-town feel with neighbors visiting, kids playing between booths, and everyone enjoying a slow morning of local food, homemade products, and rural life." The Moms and children did a brisk trade in Leo's Lemonade, Whitney's Propagation Stations, banana bread,



Danelle Klaasen with Rayne and Sterling selling eggs.

cookies, jams, farm-fresh chicken and duck eggs, very popular pickled eggs, natural beauty products, goat's milk soaps, homemade jams, bread, and cookies.

Small "tattooed" entrepreneurs sold baked goods, stocked and arranged tables, chatted with customers, and learned some practical skills — Rachelle Elder provided the essential washable tattoos. Thanks to all the Grange and non-Grange family members Bates, Ellis-Romaine, Hier, Klassen, Hart, Duda and happy young people (ages 3-9) who worked with us, and a big welcome to our newest Grange Member, Whitney Hart, one of the creative Moms, who joined at the Sale.

Special thanks for the donation to the Grange from Steph Curtis and daughter Leah from Oaklands Ranch who sold bead crafts. The Curtis family homesteaded in Sedalia and "...has been living and working



Sunflower's newest Grange member Whitney Hart at the sale.

this same property [Oaklands] for over 150 years." Their relative H. H. Curtis helped start the Grange in Colorado and in Sedalia. On June 20 Oaklands will host its annual Tractor Show (<https://oaklandsranch.com/>).

The Star-Spangled Banner on electric guitar began this summer's Music Under the Stars at BMan's. Bruce Hier and Sideways Seven have new songs like "Workin' on the next Broken Heart" and old ones, too, like "Hey, Good Lookin'" and "Ring of Fire." Young families with babies and small children, recent graduates, and about 300 mellow folks of all ages feasted on barbeque and good music. One little girl was inspired to join in on the tambourine <https://www.facebook.com/SidewaysSevenBand/>. 2026 promises to be a very good year, Grange-wise!

Diana and Karin Bates, Danelle Klaasen, Whitney Hart and Cherry Ellis



**Ute Mountain**  
Dolores and Montezuma Counties

**Lewis**

Lewis Grange #406 conducted a Flag Day Ceremony at Sunnyside Cemetery in Lewis, CO, where 58 veterans are interred. At 3 p.m.



Ute Mountain VFW raising the flag during the Lewis Grange Flag Day ceremony.

members of Ute Mountain VFW performed the flag raising rites.

Flag raised was flown over the US Capitol building on May 25, 2025. The Cortez Community Band

played the National Anthem, as well as a rousing and beautiful arrangement of "God Bless America."

Event was followed by a well-attended potluck at the Lewis Grange.



Potluck at Lewis Grange following the Flag Day Ceremony.

## Mask-a-rade Gala

Friday, October 2

6:00 p.m.

Bring your own Mask or make a Mask with supplies provided.

Location: Lewis-Arriola community center

Baked Potato Bar prepared by Lewis Grange

Dept Awards, Games, Food, Fellowship, Fun





Contact Idella Lewis, idellamlewis@gmail.com, 303-233-3393, for further information.

Sept. 5, Saturday, 3 p.m. Darden Pomona meeting at Maple Grove Grange.

Our new President is Kathy Wardle. Thank you to Marlys Halbeisen who served as President for many years! Amy McClure will be Secretary/Treasurer.

Darden Pomona's annual picnic was held at Pleasant Park Grange in July with a wonderful variety of good food and great hospitality of everyone attending.

We are looking forward to attending the State Convention in Cortez. Idella Lewis

### Enterprise Grange

Contact Carol Lackey, carollackeyhomes@gmail.com, or 303-521-4477, for further information.

June and July — No Enterprise Grange #25 meeting will be held.

**Darden Pomona Picnic – Saturday, July 11th starting at noon.** Festivities will be held at Pleasant Park Grange, 21932 Pleasant Park Road, Conifer. Bring a dish to share and plan to hang out for all the festivities!

**August 12th, Wednesday, 6-8 p.m.,** Enterprise Grange #25 meeting.

At this meeting, we'll be diving into plans for the 2026-2027 Grange Year — mapping out our calendar, electing new Enterprise officers, and choosing delegates for the Colorado State Grange. It's an important evening, and we're putting a little fun into it with a BBQ potluck!

The Grange will be firing up the grill and providing hot dogs and hamburgers. We invite you to bring your favorite sides — think nachos, salads, beans, bar cookies, or any go-to BBQ treats. The best part is just great food, good company, and some productive planning. See you there!

**September 9th, Wednesday 6-8 p.m.,** Enterprise Grange #25 meeting.

We will start with a Farm to Table potluck. Bring things from the garden; leaf salad, pea salad, corn salad, anything with potatoes, you get the idea. We'll come up with some protein too. The meeting will be centered around discussions of the Chili Dinner, the stocking project and the State

Convention — Members don't forget items that you want entered into the state contests. This will be your last chance with the exception /of baked goods. It's going to be another busy fall!

The Enterprise Grange is inviting everyone to its **Annual Fall Chili Dinner on Saturday, October 17, from 5-6:30 p.m. at the Enterprise Grange Hall, 7203 Simms Street in Arvada.** Guests can enjoy an all-you-can-eat meal featuring hearty homemade chili, hot dogs, chips, desserts, and drinks. Admission is by donation with suggested prices just \$10 for adults, \$5 for children ages 5-13, and free for children under 5, making it an affordable evening for the whole family.

In addition to the delicious meal, attendees can browse a bake sale and craft sale with homemade treats and handcrafted items.

The annual dinner is a wonderful opportunity to gather with friends, neighbors, and family members while supporting Enterprise Grange and its community programs. Everyone is welcome, and organizers encourage guests to bring family and friends for an evening of great food, fellowship, and fall fun.

Our **Annual Easter Egg Stuffing Day** held on March 28th was a great success! With help from members of Enterprise Grange, Maple Grange, Wheat Ridge Grange, the Thursday Canasta Group, House2Home Real Estate, local 4-H members, and friends and family, we filled 12,000



Cheryl Norton receiving the Enterprise Grange Community Citizen Award from Mike Lackey.

Easter eggs with candy and toys in just a matter of hours. The day was filled with teamwork, new friendships blossoming and lots of community spirit as volunteers worked together toward a common goal. A special thank you to House2Home Real Estate for providing pizza for our hardworking volunteers. We are grateful to everyone who donated their time and energy to make this event possible.

The **Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt** in cooperation with House2Home Real Estate was a tremendous success on April 4th, drawing an estimated 750 to 850 participants to Robby Ferrufino Park in Arvada.

Families enjoyed a festive morning filled with Easter fun, including donuts from Lamar's Donuts, bagels, cookies, juice, coffee, bubbles, chalk, and thousands of colorful Easter eggs. Adding to the excitement, 100 special eggs marked with a heart were hidden throughout the hunt. Children who found a heart egg received a stuffed animal prize.

A professional photographer was also on hand to capture memorable photos of children with the Easter Bunny, creating lasting memories for families in attendance. This year we added vendor booths who provided coffee juice, water, more candies, some free oil changes and toys and even a big scene TV drawing.

Arvada Firefighters from Arvada's Station #6 brought their community firetruck for all the children...and adults...to play on and learn about. It's a big hit for everyone!

This popular community event was made possible through the generous sponsorship of House2Home Real Estate and the dedicated support of friends, families, members of Enterprise Grange, and the Jefferson County 4-H Club. Their hard work and commitment helped make this year's Easter Egg Hunt one of the most successful yet.

Our **Community Night** started on April 8th at 6 p.m. with a potluck dinner. Afterwards we were proud to honor Cheryl Norton as our Community Citizen Award recipient and to celebrate her remarkable contributions.

Cheryl's distinguished career in education began in the classroom and culminated in senior leadership roles, including President of Southern Connecticut State University, President of Slippery Rock University, and Provost at Metropolitan State University of Denver, where she served until 2004.

Beyond her professional achievements, Cheryl is deeply committed to community service. An active Kiwanis Club member, she supports numerous initiatives, including fundraising for *Sweet Dreams in a Bag*, providing essential items to children in need, and organizing weekly food backpacks for students facing food insecurity. She also participates in local highway cleanups, large-scale food drives, and volunteer efforts to support under-resourced nonprofits in Arvada.

Cheryl contributes to community events such as local festivals, with



Jefferson County 4-H Club participated in this year's Community Easter Egg Hunt.



Enterprise Grange was well represented during the Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt.

proceeds benefiting service projects, and plays a leading role in the Santa House program, which provides gifts to children from Title I schools. Additionally, she serves on the Red Rocks Community Advisory Board and supports the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota by delivering critical supplies, including hygiene products for young women. She was a fascinating speaker and was more than happy to answer so many of our questions.

Cheryl's dedication, leadership, and compassion continue to make a lasting impact on countless lives.

May 2nd, Saturday was the **DARDEN POMONA meeting** at Enterprise Grange #25.

We had our normal business meeting between 3:30 p.m. and 4 p.m. The theme for the rest of the meeting was "The Kentucky Derby Grange Day." The Pre-race watch and games started at 4 p.m., Race at 5:02 p.m., so the Derby potluck was held before the race. All the ladies were dressed in their finest Derby Hats and outfits. The winning horse was only on Kathy Wardle's betting card. One prize for Kathy and so then we went to Bingo are winners of the rest of the prizes. This year the ace was surprising, the food delicious and the company enjoyable.

Our **May meeting was in a Cinco de Mayo Style!** We kicked off the meeting with a festive Cinco de Mayo-themed potluck. Everyone brought their favorite Mexican dish and their appetite to match. Following the potluck, Dorothy Dannels brought small Mexican Sombreros and various things to decorate them with. Everyone had such a good time making these for centerpieces for our next celebration. The two tall cardboard Mexican people also came out so we could take pictures through the holes cut into their faces. Something everyone enjoys doing.

Because we have such limited space at our Grange, we have decided to again join the Community Garden across the road from the Grange. This year we have planted tomatillos, tomatoes, peppers, onions, and zucchini. Mike Lackey is over there every day tending to the weeds and watering.

Carol Lackey



Arvada Firefighters from Arvada's State #6 brought their firetruck for all to play on and learn about.



Stuffing eggs for the April 4th Community Easter Egg Hunt at Robby Ferrufino Park in Arvada.

### Maple Grove

Contact Idella Lewis, idellamlewis@gmail.com, 303-233-3393, for further information.

Maple Grove Grange has some new window shades on the windows upstairs. Thank you to the square dance clubs who provided them for us. And installed them. It is a great improvement!

We will not be having a meeting in July.

Idella Lewis

### Pleasant Park

Contact Yvonne Ludwig, Master, for information, at 303-838-4805, 22551 Pleasant Park Road, Conifer, CO 80433.

Sept. 12 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Pomona Picnic.

Oct. 10 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with potluck.

Nov. 14 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Thanksgiving Dinner.

Dec. 12 — Regular meeting 10 a.m. followed with Christmas party.

The bicycle Rest Stop is very busy. Thanks to all the members who take care of the coolers and keep the area clean.

Thanks to Jon and Mary Kullmann, we now have a gazebo! Jon and Julia Kullmann and Ron and Jan Schmidt assembled the structure in two days! The riders love the shade it provides since we have lost so many trees.

The Journey Through Books book club continues to meet at the Grange Hall the last Monday of every month. The energetic group brings a lot of happiness to the Grange Hall!

The Conifer Rotary Club along



The new gazebo at Pleasant Park Grange.

with the Fire Department are cutting down trees along Pleasant Park Road that may be a danger for fire evacuation. They are cutting down a few trees at our Grange Hall for safety precautions.

The date has been changed for the Pomona Picnic so mark your calendars for the Pomona Picnic on September 12. There will be lots of food, fun, games, prizes and fellowship.

We continue to look for new members and ways to educate locals of the advantages to become a member.

Everyone is welcome to attend our meetings the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.

Yvonne Ludwig

### Golden Gate

Contact Terri Costeldia, [terri.costeldia@hotmail.com](mailto:terri.costeldia@hotmail.com), 970-640-7185, for further information.

Grange Meeting – Thursday, July 9th, 2:30 p.m.

Drop Off for Rummage Sale – August 1st through August 6th from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Rummage Sale – Friday, August 7th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, August 8th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grange Meeting – August 13th at 2:30 p.m.

Grange Meeting – Thursday, September 10th at 2:30 p.m.

Golden Gate Auxiliary Pig Roast – September 19th at 5 p.m.

Grange Meeting – Thursday, October 8th at 2:30 p.m.

Craft Fair – Saturday, October 16th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Yoga – Wednesdays, from 3-4 p.m.

AA—Every Tuesday, from 7 p.m.

The Hydration Drive was a great success. We collected 120 cases of water and sports drinks from the community for the Golden Gate Fire Protection District volunteer fire fighter/first responders.

In May the GGFDP held one of three slash events for Canyon residents at the Golden Gate Grange. The community responded, bring

their slash to be chipped and removed. Thanks to all who brought slash and to the GGFDP volunteers who handled the chipping and removal.

We had a wonderful program on Sustainable Practices for Gardening in the Foothills. Molly Niven and a second Master Gardener and Native Plant Master, Loretta Simms, spoke about managing effects of drought, building healthy soils, creating defensible space, controlling invasive species, native and waterwise plants, low flammability plants, and more!

This was followed by a program by Horticulture Specialist, Tyler Bortz of the CSU Extension Service of Jeffco. Tyler presented a very important and educational talk on the Mountain Pine Beetle. He covered preventive measures to protect healthy trees, the way to identify infected trees and how and when to remove infected trees to prevent further pine beetle spread.

The Canyon favorite Rummage Sale will be held on Friday, August 7th and Saturday, August 8th. Your donation of gently used but no longer needed items is greatly appreciated. Drop off dates will be from August 1st to August 6th. Funds from the Rummage Sale enable us to make much needed repairs updates to the building. Your support with donations and shopping is greatly appreciated.

Additional events in the past few months were Eggmania, the Spring Community Brunch, a Painting Experience, Peak to Peak Chorale Concert, and Rock Concert featuring oldies but goodies.

Yoga is held on Wednesdays from 3-4 PM. If you haven't been to a class before Instructors, Judy and Susan, will provide a class that will offer alternatives for all levels.

Website: [www.GoldenGateGrange.com](http://www.GoldenGateGrange.com)/Facebook: Golden Gate Canyon Community.

Grange phone: 303-273-9516.

Grange Rentals: DeeDee Ramstetter 225-603-2705 or [DKMH1@gmail.com](mailto:DKMH1@gmail.com).

Jayne Ruesch



### Marvel

Contact Cindy Greer, 970-749-8108 or [hcrdgreer@gmail.com](mailto:hcrdgreer@gmail.com) for further information.

July 3 – Business meeting cancelled.

July 24 – Business meeting, 7:30 p.m. Program: TBD.

July 26 – Ice Cream Social honoring Veterans, 3 p.m.

August 5-9 – La Plata County Fair.

August 7 – Business meeting cancelled.

September 4 – Business meeting 7:30 p.m.

September 18 – Squash-themed potluck and program TBD.

Second Monday – Pioneer 4-H Club meets at the Hall.

Monday morning at 9 a.m. we have line dancing.

April 25 we hosted another Luau. We decided to change the time of year to allow us to perhaps participate in the Community Halloween events. We had 60 in attendance.

May 5 we catered the Basin CO-OP Banquet and served around 150 people. Special thanks to Sheryl Ayers for cooking the meat with Roger's help and to everyone who



Mr. Dietrich speaking to Grangers on Radon and Health.



Band at the April 25th Luau at Marvel Grange.

made cobblers and helped prepare food, serve, and clean up.

May 15 we hosted a Sr Citizen lunch (Baked Potato Bar) for the community and had a program on Radon and Health homes that a representative from the County presented to the group of 24.

May 30 we hosted a community Breakfast and had 60 in attendance. We served pancakes, bacon, eggs, sausage, French toast, orange juice, grape juice and coffee.

July 26 our Ice Cream Social will recognize veterans. We hope to be able to present two quilts of valor provided we can get the veterans to attend. We will have corn hole games

available and encourage some competition. We will have a homemade pie bakeoff competition and give prizes and enjoy lots of homemade ice cream and fellowship.

June 27 we will be serving breakfast for Fort Lewis Mesa Reunion participants at the Grange Hall.

Some of our members will be helping at the La Plata Pomona Grange County Fair concession.

We are beginning to have some repairs done to the building and will have the roof repaired first.

We are working on updating our by-laws and we have achieved getting our 501c5 back.

Cindy Greer



Band at the April 25th Luau at Marvel Grange.

### Pikes Peak

El Paso and Teller Counties

### Florissant

Contact Renee Caldwell, 719-748-5004, [florissantgrange@gmail.com](mailto:florissantgrange@gmail.com), for further information.

Upcoming Events:

Every Thursday is Community Potluck and Music.

Every Tuesday the Florissant Grange Quilters meet from 9 a.m. -12 p.m.

Business meeting is the 2nd Monday of the month at 6 p.m.

Gift Shop is open every day except Thursday and Sunday.

July 25 – Heritage Day in Florissant and Lake George.

August 6 – Purple Heart Day Celebration at the Florissant Grange.

August 8 – Craft Classes.

August 17 – Flea Market.

Sept 12 – Craft Classes.

We are so happy that Spring and Summer are here. We have had some welcomed moisture and hope to have a lot more. But the days are warm, the birds are singing, the chipmunks are out getting ready for winter, Alan and I have a beaver in the pond again (not sure we are happy about that) that is very fun to watch, we have a drake and hen about to bless us with little duck-

lings and the groundhogs are back at the Grange along with the badgers. Summer is so much fun.

The Florissant Grange Quilts for Veterans group has been busy making and awarded beautiful patriotic quilts. We were proud and honored to award a Purple Heart Quilt to Colorado's only injured veteran who returned to Colorado July 1. The award ceremony was in Cripple Creek and televised on all the local stations.

Harvest Host campers are in full swing. We are full of campers every weekend and many are staying with us for multiple days and staying to join us for our Thursday evening Potluck and live music.

The Teller County Fair is July 25-31. The Florissant Grange will have a booth at the Fair this year.

We had a fun Easter Party this year with over 50 kiddos attending. We hid 500 eggs for the Easter Egg hunt and the Easter Bunny, aka Marcia Phillips, got lots and lots of hugs.

Heritage Day is around the corner in July. The whole community of Florissant, and this year, the community of Lake George is joining us to celebrate. The Fire Department will start the day with the Pancake Breakfast and will have lots of activities for the young ones in the community.

The Library and the Pikes Peak Historical Society Museum will be

having activities for all ages and demonstrations. The Cemetery is open for an historic walk-through time. The Fossil Beds and Hornbek Homestead are open and baking cookies in the old wood stove.

The Grange will be filled with Crafters, Vendors, Ice Cream, music and historic talks about the Old School House, and the Quilters will be having a fundraising event. It should prove to be a very fun day.

We held our second Art Show at the Grange and it was a successful day for the Artists and the visitors. Fifteen artists showed up to show off their beautiful art and we served Pizza for lunch.

April 25, we had the second annual Souper Supper. We had many soups to taste and choose to eat with cole slaw and chocolate cake and wonderful dinner rolls. We didn't have as many people as we had hoped, but those that came had a really good time.

We had a craft show in May and all that came enjoyed all the crafts, art and vendors and we had taco soup for lunch and ran out. I guess it was good.

Coming in October will be our annual Haunted House followed by our Free Thanksgiving Dinner in November and Santa and his elves will join us in December. The time sure flies when we are having fun.

Renee Caldwell



Kay and Fred LaPerriere's Jeep in the 2023 St. Patrick's Day Parade.



The dash to find Easter Eggs at Florissant Grange.

### Colorado State Grange Website

Larry Corman takes care of the web page for the State Grange. He is requesting that Officers and Directors contact him with updates for their departments.

He would like to link the web page of each Grange to the State Grange site. Please contact him to have this done so Grange members and others can easily access your page for information.

Larry Corman: [larry\\_corman@hotmail.com](mailto:larry_corman@hotmail.com) or 970-749-8438.

# 153rd Colorado Grange State Session Tentative Agenda

## 153rd State Session of the COLORADO STATE GRANGE Program

All State Session Meetings and Exhibits will be held at the Lewis-Arriola Community Center, 21176 Road S Cortez, CO 81321

All meeting of the State Session of the Colorado State Grange will be held in the **Fourth** Degree and members of any Grange in any state may attend.

Delegates must present their credential cards if the Secretary of their Grange has not already mailed them to the Secretary of the Colorado State Grange prior to the opening of the State Session.

Pianist: Ruth Wilson Francisco



### Wednesday, September 30, 2026

4:00 p.m. Set up for meeting

6:00 p.m. Officers and Directors Dinner

7:00 p.m. Sixth Degree Practice  
State Officers

Practice for Memorial Service to follow

### THURSDAY, October 1, 2025

9:30 a.m.

Registration  
Check-in time for Lecturer, Family Activities, & Junior Grange contest entries for judging.

9:45 – 10:00 a.m.

State Session Committee Chairmen meet with the State Master.

10:00 a.m. New Delegates meet with State Master

10:30 a.m. All State Session Delegates work on Resolutions.

11:45 a.m. – recess for lunch

12:00 p.m. – Lunch

Opening of the Colorado State Grange  
In full form in the Sixth Degree.  
Lowering to the Fourth Degree.  
Receiving Honored Guests  
Roll Call of Officers/Directors  
Communications  
Adopting Convention Agenda  
Partial report of Credentials Committee  
Annual address by State Master, Gary Wardle  
Report of Treasurer and Secretary  
Report of Executive Committee chair  
Preliminary Report of Good of the Order  
Report of Leadership and Scholarship foundation  
Committee Reports  
Guest Speaker: National Representative – TBD

3:30 p.m. Memorial Service under direction of

Chaplain, Shelly Griffin

Closing of the Grange

Family Activities Bake Sale

4:00 p.m.

**PICK annual meeting**

5:00 - 7:00 p.m. Bunco & Pizza

### FRIDAY, October 2, 2026

6:45 a.m. Colorado State Grange Alumni  
Breakfast – Presiding, Barry Willits

8:45 a.m.

Open the Grange in the Fourth Degree  
Report of Credentials Committee  
Elections of officers  
Continuation of Committee Reports

11:45 a.m.

Recess for Lunch

12:00 p.m.

Membership Lunch,

1:00 – 3:00 p.m. **Tour Milligan Honey farm**

3:30 p.m. Continuation of Committee reports if needed.

6:00 p.m.

Gala – Theme Mask-a-rade – Bring your own mask or make your mask with supplies provided. Baked potato bar prepared by Lewis Grange.

### Saturday, October 3, 2026

7:15 a.m.

Colorado State Grange Past Master's  
Breakfast - Presiding: Amy Peterson

9:00 a.m.

Open the Grange  
Continuation of Committee Reports

10:00 a.m.

Installation of Officer –

Spotlight on Grange –

12:00 p.m. JG Lunch

1:30 p.m.

Short Form 5<sup>th</sup> Degree,??

1:45 p.m.

Sixth Degree conferred by State Grange  
Officers  
Close the Grange in full form in the Fourth Degree

3:00 p.m. Leave to Tour Ute Farm

7:00 p.m.

Annual Banquet of Colorado State Grange  
Executive Committee Chairman:  
Tom Campion presiding  
Recognition of National Rep  
Recognition of Outstanding Granger  
Presentation of Quilts of Valor  
Talent Showcase

7:15 p.m. Raffle Drawing

Fifth Degree Fee..... \$1.00  
Sixth Degree Fee..... \$5.00  
(Purchase tickets from State Secretary)

Lecturers, Family & Women's Activities  
and J.G. exhibits will be on display  
throughout the convention.

**Deadline for the  
Fall 2026 Issue Of  
The Colorado Granger Newspaper  
Is October 5, 2026.**

## RESERVATIONS FOR MEAL FUNCTIONS FOR STATE SESSION

### **Deadline For Ticket Orders & Payment: September 25, 2026**

Fill in the number of tickets you are ordering. Include a check made out to: **Colorado State Grange**. Mail to: Colorado State Grange: 7629 County Road 100, Hesperus, CO 81326. Pre-paid tickets will be at the Registration Table

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Tickets	Meal Function	Total
_____	<b>Alumni Breakfast</b> — October 2, 7:15 a.m. <i>Past State Officers and Directors &amp; Spouses</i>	\$10.00 _____
_____	<b>Membership Lunch</b> — Fri, Oct 2, 12:00 noon Cheese burgers, beans, potato salad, beverages, cookies <i>Everyone invited, 13 and under</i>	\$13.00 _____ @ \$6.50 _____
_____	<b>Past Masters Breakfast</b> — Sat., Oct 3, 6:45 a.m. <i>For Past Masters &amp; Spouses</i>	\$10.00 _____
_____	<b>JG Lunch</b> — Sat., Oct 3, Noon <b>PLEASE CHECK CHOICE BELOW!</b>	@13.00 _____
_____	_____ Philly Cheesesteak Hoagie, Or	
_____	_____ Chicken Sandwich	
	Meal includes: Chips, Garden Salad, Dessert. <i>Everyone invited</i>	
	13 and under @ \$6.50 _____	
_____	<b>Annual Banquet</b> — Sat., Oct 7, 7 p.m.	@\$20.00 _____
	Roast beef, BBQ Chicken, Baked Potato, Green Beans, Beverages and Dessert	
	13 and under @\$10.00 _____	
_____	I Plan to take the 5 <sup>th</sup> and 6 <sup>th</sup> Degree at State Session	
	5 <sup>th</sup> degree \$1.00 each _____	
	6 <sup>th</sup> Degree \$5.00 each _____	
	<b>TOTAL AMOUNT OF ALL MEALS &amp; Degrees INCLUDED</b>	\$ _____